

to conceal his own merit, who sets that of other people in its true light, who speaks but little of himself, and with modesty; such a man makes a favorable impression upon the understanding of his hearers, and acquires their love and esteem."¹ Letter XXXI, "One of the most important points of life is decency; which is to do what is proper, and where it is proper; for many things are proper at one time, and in one place, that are extremely improper in another; for example, it is very proper and decent that you should play some part of the day; but you must feel that it would be very improper and indecent if you were to fly your kite, or play at nine pins while you are with Mr. Maittaire;"² Again, "Pray observe, that the rope of the Sabines was more an advantageous than a just measure; yet the utility of it should not warrant its injustice; for we ought to endure every misfortune, even death, rather than be guilty of an injustice, and indeed, this is the only one that can be imputed to the Romans for many succeeding ages."³ Letter CLXXXIII, "It is a decided folly to lose a friend for a jest; but, in my mind, it is not a much less degree of folly, to make an enemy of an indifferent and neutral person, for the sake of a bon mot."⁴ Letter XXVIII, "If a person, though possessed of the finest understanding and greatest knowledge, should be a liar, cruel, proud, and covetous, he will be hated and detested by every human creature, and shunned like a wild beast."⁵ Letter

1. Chesterfield's Letters to His Son, p 40, Letter XLIV.

2. op. cit., p 29, Letter XXXI.

3. op. cit., p 14.

4. op. cit., p 233, Letter CLXXXIII.

5. op. cit., p 26, Letter XXVIII.